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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

EUR-08 EA-06 IO-03 SP-02 EB-03 SSM-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MAUSTRIAN:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS
IO/P:JWASHBURN(SUBS)
NEA/PAB:RAPECK
INR/IEA:WROPE
NEA/WTCLUVERIUS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050308

LIMDIS - FOR AMB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AF, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD

REF: KABUL 1507

1. IN YOUR MARCH 3 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD YOU MAY PASS THE FOLLOWING USG ASSESSMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL:

(A) ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION -- THE USG HAD HOPED THAT THE SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER STEPS. UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE THE ACCORD WAS IMPLEMENTED ON FEBRUARY 22, EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAVE NOT YET BORNE FRUIT. THIS HAS RESULTED FROM INCREASED
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DISSENT ON THE ARAB SIDE, REFLECTED IN SYRIA'S CRITICISM

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OF THE LATEST SINAI AGREEMENT, AND FROM THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL.

FOLLOWING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE CLEAR ITS INTENTION TO REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AMONG THE PARTIES. AS WE EXPLAINED IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE DEBATE, OUR DECISION TO VETO WAS BASED ON OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT THE RESOLUTION PROPOSED WOULD HAVE

ALTERED THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED -- I.E. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 -- IN WAYS WHICH COULD VERY WELL HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL TO REMAIN A PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR US TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A PEACEMAKING ROLE.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SITUATION CAN NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIFT OR TO STAGNATE AND THAT NEGOTIATING ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS WILL BE NECESSARY THIS YEAR. WE HAVE NO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AS TO HOW THIS CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED AND HAVE ENTERED INTO A PERIOD OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS TO HELP IDENTIFY THE MOST PRACTICAL WAYS TO PROCEED.

WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE ISSUES THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH, INCLUDING AT SOME POINT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO TAKE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN A SETTLEMENT. IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ALL CONCERNED TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO INJECT NEW ELEMENTS INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND TO WEIGH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ALTERNATIVES THEY FACE IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME EVOLUTION OF THINKING ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, AND PREFERABLY ON BOTH SIDES, BEFORE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE. INTEREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AN AWARENESS OF WHAT IS AT STAKE, IS HIGH IN THE UNITED STATES AND WE INTEND TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN FURTHERING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

(B) CHINA'S INTERNAL SITUATION -- LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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HUA KUO-FENG AS ACTING PREMIER, THE CHINESE PRESS INDICATES THAT A BITTER FACTIONAL STRUGGLE IS UNDERWAY. THE STRUGGLE APPEARS TO INVOLVE MANY OF THE PERSONALITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. WHILE THE SITUATION REMAINS FLUID, HUA IS ACTING WITH CONFIDENCE AND AUTHORITY AND THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN CHINESE DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN POLICIES. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE CONTINUED INTERNAL

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DEBATE OVER THE METHODS TO BE USED IN FURTHERING CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT AND WHO WILL LEAD CHINA THROUGH THE PERIOD AHEAD.

(C) COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT -- THE UNITED STATES IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A FRUITFUL, GENUINE DIALOGUE WITH THE NON-ALIGNED STATES. WE FEEL THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE SOME VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, AT THE U.N. SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SRI LANKA, AS THE HOST NATION, IS HOPING TO FOCUS THE SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND WE HOPE THE PARTICIPANTS WILL DO THIS IN A JUDICIOUS MANNER, AVOIDING RADICAL POSITIONS.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE MAY BE RAISED AT COLOMBO. WE APPRECIATE AFGHANISTAN'S PREVIOUS SUPPORT ON THIS AND HOPE THIS SUPPORT WILL BE REPEATED AT THE SUMMIT, IF NECESSARY. (FURTHER INFORMATION ON PUERTO RICO IS CONTAINED IN STATE 49329 AND 49330, PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED.)

(D) INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS (STATE 47812) AND THE BHUTTO MEETING (STATE (049421) TRANSMITTED SEPTELS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SINAI, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE050308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAUSTRIAN:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0223
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603103/aaaadmwh.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 KABUL 1507
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD
TAGS: PFOR, AF, XF, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006